synergies between sub-regional cooperation frameworks such as Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand-Economic Cooperation) an Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS).

Census of SSIs

3079. SHRIMATI S.G. IDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a third census of Small Scale Industries has been conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Third Census of SSIs has been launched during October-November, 2002 all over the country through the State/UT Directorates of Industries (SDIs). The SSI units permanently registered till 31.3.2001 are covered on complete enumeration basis and the unregistered SSI units are covered on sample basis in a few selected villages and urban blocks. As per the latest reports received from the SDIS, data collection work has been completed in all the States except Karnataka, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. The findings of Third Census have not been brought out for want of completion of data collection work in these three States.

Mutual Credit Gurantee Scheme for SSIs

3080. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are finalizing a plan for introduction of Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for SSIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The government of India has requested